



NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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Supervisor Biane: Additional Firefighters Critical

SAN BERNARDINO – On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a \$550,000 General Fund allocation to hire additional firefighters to work at stations in fire-prone areas of San Bernardino County.

“The additional staffing approved by the Board today is critical because of the extremely dry conditions our firefighters are up against this summer,” Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane said. “Fires can get out of hand quickly in conditions like this, and we must be prepared.”

The San Bernardino County Fire Department will hire additional firefighters to work at 10 fire stations in foothill and mountains communities, including Lytle Creek, San Antonio Heights, Wrightwood, Phelan, Grand Terrace, Lucerne Valley, Yucca Valley, Fawnskin, Forest Falls and Angelus Oaks. The additional staffing will be in place from July to October of this year and from May to June in 2008. The Board has approved similar allocations for extra firefighters since the Grand Prix and Old Fires in October 2003.

“Another major wildfire in our County is a very real possibility this summer,” said Biane, who represents the County’s Second Supervisorial District. “Our best defense is to put more firefighters on the frontlines to attack small fires before they turn into big ones.”

In the Second District, the Lytle Creek and San Antonio Heights fire stations were selected for additional staffing. Lytle Creek is normally staffed entirely by paid-call firefighters, who respond to the station after receiving a page from dispatchers. The additional funding will pay for three firefighters to work at the station 10 hours a day on weekends and on selected weekdays. The San Antonio Heights station is normally staffed with two firefighters 24 hours a day. The additional funding will pay for a firefighter to work at the station around the clock, bringing the total staffing at the station to three.

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